

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:*

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A bumper apparatus comprising ~~a bumper apparatus including~~ a bumper reinforcement extended in a width direction of a vehicle and a bumper stay fixed to a side member on a side of a ~~vehicle body of the vehicle, the side member comprising opposed side walls,~~ wherein the bumper stay includes a front wall portion fixed to the bumper reinforcement, a rear wall portion fixed to the side member ~~on the side of the vehicle body,~~ and a plurality of ribs for coupling the ~~two rear and front wall portions, the plurality of ribs comprising an inner side rib, an outer side rib and a pair of middle ribs positioned between the inner and outer side ribs in the width direction of the vehicle, the middle ribs being positioned relative to the side walls of the side member such that each of the middle ribs is positioned along a line extending from one of the side walls of the side member,~~ and the inner and the outer side ribs are provided with an angle of inclination diverging to ~~a front side toward the bumper reinforcement,~~ the inner side rib includes a projected portion projected to an inner side, the projected portion being located at a portion coupling the inner side rib and the front wall portion, and a dimension in a width direction of the front wall portion is larger than a dimension in a width direction of the rear wall portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a single ~~one of the~~ projected portion is provided on ~~the side of the bumper reinforcement of inner side rib.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the projected portion forms an opening angle  $\theta_2$  ~~of the projected portion~~ falls in a range of 45° through 120° with a portion of the inner side rib adjoining the projected portion.

4. (Previously Presented) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the bumper stay is a pressed product of one sheet of a steel plate and a hollow portion between the respective ribs is opened to a front side or a rear side.

5. (Previously Presented) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the bumper stay comprises an extruded member of an aluminum based alloy material and three pieces of closed hollow portions thereof are partitioned between the front and the rear wall portions by the ribs.

6. (Original) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein a length of the outer side rib is smaller than a length of the inner side rib.

7. (New) A bumper apparatus comprising a bumper reinforcement extending in a width direction of a vehicle and a bumper stay fixed to a side member on a body of the vehicle, the bumper stay comprising a front wall portion fixed to the

bumper reinforcement, a rear wall portion fixed to the side member, and a plurality of ribs coupling the rear wall portion and the front wall portion, the plurality of ribs comprising an inner side rib, an outer side rib and two middle ribs positioned between the inner and outer side ribs in the width direction of the vehicle, the inner side rib and the outer side rib diverging away from one another in a direction toward the bumper reinforcement, the inner side rib and one of the middle ribs located closest to the inner side rib forming a hollow interior region within the bumper stay, the inner side rib including a projected portion projecting in a direction away from the hollow interior region, the front wall portion of the bumper stay possessing a width dimension larger than a width dimension of the rear wall portion.

8. (New) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the inner side rib is provided with a single projected portion.

9. (New) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the projected portion is formed in part by an actuate shaped portion having a radius of curvature.

10. (New) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the projected portion forms an opening angle in a range of 45° through 120° with a portion of the inner side rib adjoining the projected portion.

11. (New) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the bumper stay is a pressed product of one sheet of a steel plate and includes hollow portions between adjacent ribs that open to a front side or a rear side.

12. (New) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the bumper stay comprises an extruded member of an aluminum based alloy material, the bumper stay comprising three closed hollow portions between the front and the rear wall portions, the hollow portions being separated from one another by the ribs.

13. (New) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein a length of the outer side rib is less than a length of the inner side rib.

14. (New) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the projected portion is positioned at a portion coupling the inner side rib and the front wall portion.

15. (New) The bumper apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein each of the middle ribs is aligned with a side wall of the side member.